DISABLED PERSONS BULLETIN

April 1990

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THE PENDULUM SWINGS, FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION

As we approach the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992), a question is often raised: Which direction should the disability programme take during the remaining two years? It would not be realistic to expect miracles in a slow-changing process. However, as the United Nations focal point on disability issues, the United Nations Office at Vienna/Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (UNOV/CSDHA) has already started to prepare for changes in demands, signaled by the disabled persons themselves. The Centre has initiated processes that should turn awareness into action-oriented programmes. The past eight years of the Decade have contributed to a better understanding of the limitations and obstacles experienced, as well as the new challenges and opportunities ahead.

Discussing and understanding the opportunities and new challenges ahead of all of us. *(Photo by CSDHA)*

Expert meeting in Finland

New strategies until 1992 and beyond will be the main topics of discussion among experts from both developing and developed countries during the International Meeting on Alternative Ways to Mark the End of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. The Meeting is scheduled to take place from 7 to 11 May 1990 at the Conference Centre of Järvenpää-Talo, Järvenpää, Finland. The need for this Meeting, which is being jointly financed by the Government of Finland and the United Nations, grew out of General Assembly resolution 43/98, which requested the Secretary-General to "conduct a feasibility study on the substantive, financial and administrative implications of alternative ways to mark the end of the Decade". The Meeting will prepare recommendations for the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, to be held in New York in late 1990.

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Commitments to the need to equalize opportunities for disabled persons, encouraging their active participation in daily life. (Photos by Bethesda, Indonesia)

Solutions and strategies: part of a development process

The Meeting was inspired by a statement by Mauno Koivisto, President of Finland: "Ultimate goals are not important because they can never be reached. Yet they have to be established. What is important is a continuing movement towards selected objectives." There are no ultimate solutions to obstacles facing humankind in general or persons with disabilities in particular. In fact, an ultimate solution is not likely to be possible. Rather, suitable solutions and strategies are the results of a continuing process of development.

IYDP, the United Nations Decade and the World Programme of Action

The process of developing equal opportunities for disabled persons is being guided by the successes of the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP), proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 31/123, and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, while concrete objectives are being provided by the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons. Despite the possibility that success may fall short of earlier expectations, it is important to realize that progress has been made. The proclamation of IYDP and the Decade succeeded in sensitizing the general public. These events have raised international and national awareness of disability issues. One important result was the expression of commitments to the need to equalize opportunities for disabled persons, encouraging their active participation in daily life.

The World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982 to mark the beginning of the Decade, is based on fundamental human rights and on the advanced philosophical principle that all disabled persons should actively be involved in shaping their environment, as members of society. They should be given every opportunity to do so irrespective of their disability. This was reaffirmed on various occasions, for example at the Global Meeting of Experts to Review the Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons at the Mid-Point of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, held at Stockholm in August 1987, as well as at the International Meeting on Human Resources in the Field of Disability, held at Tallinn in August 1989. The World Programme of Action reflects a commitment to prevent disability and to rehabilitate and reintegrate disabled persons into community life. It has been translated into many languages, is still being widely disseminated and quoted, and will remain the primary guide for future programmes. Nevertheless, the ideas it contains are often unknown to or not used by some Governments and international organizations. It should be no surprise that the majority of the public or academics of a given country have never heard of this document. Perhaps it would be worthwhile to examine whether disabled persons themselves have had access to it, including those with limited functional literacy. Such questions, as well as the periodic comprehensive review and appraisal of the

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implementation of the World Programme of Action, will be put on the agenda of the Meeting at Helsinki to obtain specific information on progress achieved, obstacles encountered and specific action required.

An agenda for action: main task for the Helsinki Meeting

The Meeting at Helsinki is being called to design an agenda for action, through 1992, at international, regional and national levels. It is also an excellent opportunity for Governments, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental agencies to design an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to disability issues, which is crucial for effective collaboration. One approach to be considered is the establishment and strengthening of national disability committees, a topic that is scheduled to be thoroughly discussed from 5 to 11 November 1990, at Beijing, at an international meeting of representatives of national committees.

Other priority concerns to be considered at Helsinki will include the practical integration of disability issues into national-level planning, as well as their financial consequences. Consideration will be given to ways to strengthen and to jointly mobilize efforts with other social programmes. Disability programmes should be considered important aspects of social, economic, cultural and political issues.

Alternative ways to mark the end of 1992

The Meeting will also focus on alternative ways to mark the end of the Decade. The agenda items will provide opportunities to again advocate that disability issues should be accepted as part of the normal life experience rather than thought of as an abnormal experience. The equalization of opportunities for disabled persons is a fundamental right. Already, UNOV/CSDHA has received several proposals from Member States, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. One proposal suggested the need for a special publication that would contain success stories and examples of good practice in the field of prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities in various parts of the world. Other proposals suggested that major conferences be organized at the regional and international level to secure and sustain political commitment to the implementation of the World Programme of Action.

Long-term strategies: the year 2000 and beyond

The need for a long-term strategy is evident. There will be a rapid increase of disabled persons in some countries as a result of the deteriorating economic and social situation. Because major environmental and demographic concerns will compete for priority with disability concerns over the next decade, there can be no expectation of a dramatic increase in the resources required to implement programmes in the disability field. What can be encouraged, however, are strategies that initiate and enforce processes at the national and community level. Using current resources, these could transform an awareness of disability issues into action-oriented programmes that address directly the needs of disabled persons.

Such activities would be based on the priorities of the World Programme of Action, including full integration and equal rights and equal opportunities in education and employment for persons with disabilities, thus enabling them to take active part in economic, social, cultural and political transactions. Clearly defined targets should be set for the year 2000, to enable programmers to identify verifiable, concrete and realistic objectives. Such targets might include the establishment or strengthening of national co-ordinating committees in all Member States by the year 2000 and explicit recognition of the rights of disabled persons, as well as their needs and concerns. Other goals are the full integration of development programmes and national development plans and a marked increase in education, training, employment and work opportunities. Such targets will clearly help to realize the main objectives of the World Programme of Action. The United Nations is determined to help its Member States in achieving these targets. It is expected that the Meeting at Helsinki will address this issue and develop a framework for action. ■

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READEX FICHE

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEES

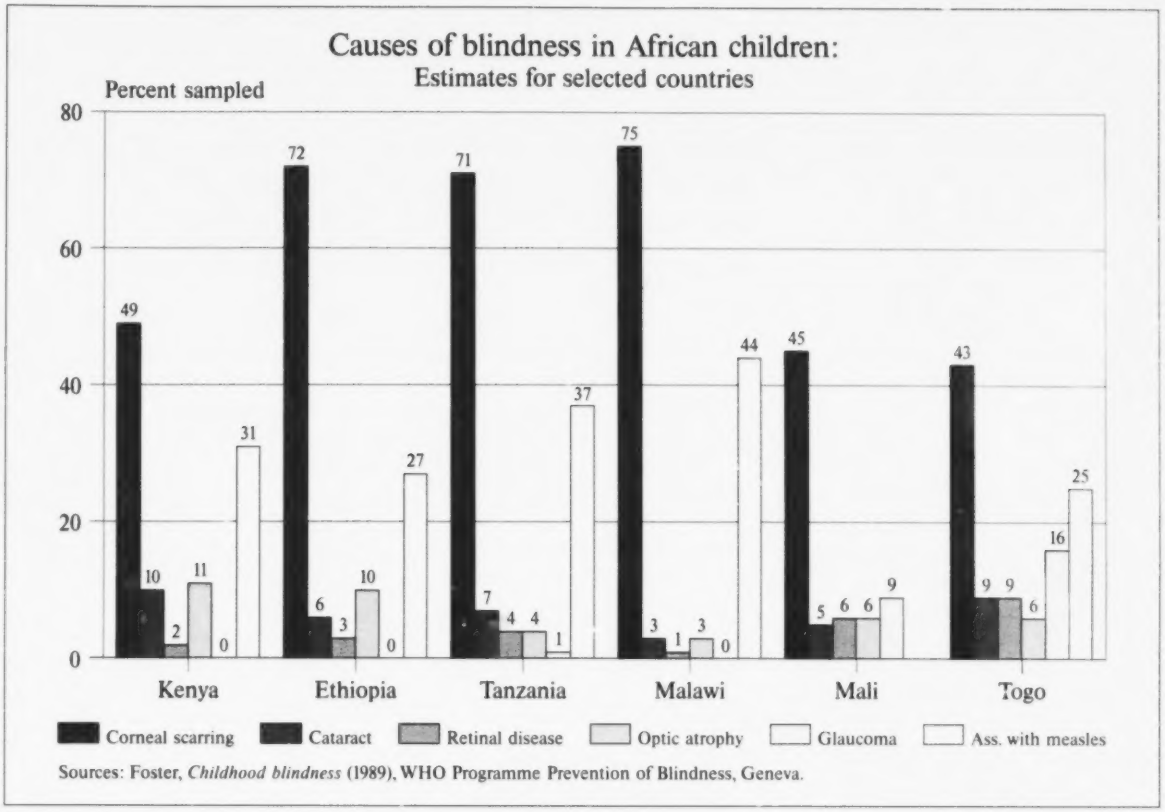
The main reason for the success of national co-ordinating committees on disability has perhaps been their ability to bring together senior representatives of different ministries, relevant non-governmental organizations and disabled persons. This ability provides a framework for discussion at all levels, by all parties. It is important to achieve co-ordination and effective collaboration between different organizations and a Government because the needs of disabled persons cannot be met by a single department or agency. In particular, co-ordination is needed between departments of health, education, social welfare, employment, transport and several others. Some countries have also appointed a minister with specific responsibilities for disability questions.

The work of NCCs was one of the reasons for the success of IYDP. By the same token, the diminishing role or actual disbandment of many national co-ordinating committees may be one of the main reasons why the Decade has not had a greater impact. In view of the importance of national co-ordinating committees, CSDHA has undertaken a detailed study of the role, functions and development of national co-ordinating committees. This study will be the main background paper at the meeting on national co-ordinating committees on disability, which is to be held at Beijing. It includes useful technical guidelines on the operation, role and functions of national co-ordinating committees, based on the experience gained in different regions and in countries at various stages of development.

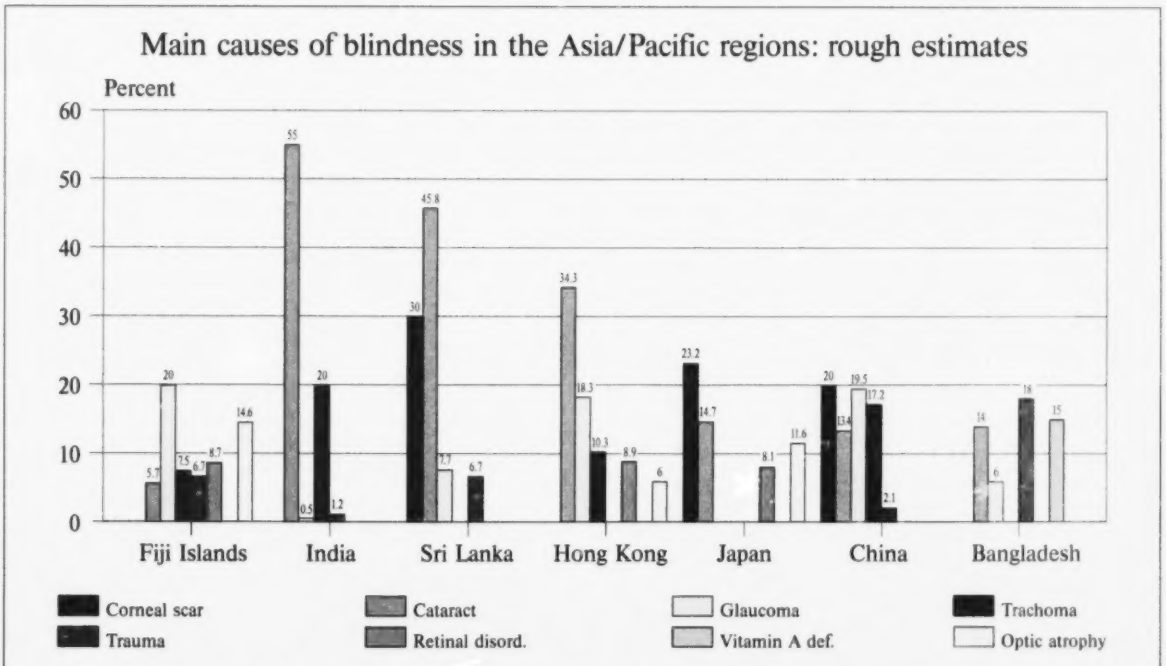
The meeting at Beijing will bring together an estimated 20 participants from developing countries and another 15 participants from developed countries to review, exchange and discuss national experiences and any obstacles encountered in the establishment, functioning or development of national co-ordinating committees or similar groups. The meeting is intended to encourage the development or revival of such committees during the remainder of this decade. ■

Representatives from different ministries and NGO's in Côte d'Ivoire, recently discussed the issue of co-ordination and effective collaboration between different organizations. *(Photo by CSDHA)*

TO THINK ABOUT: CAUSES OF BLINDNESS



Sources: Foster, *Childhood blindness* (1989), WHO Programme Prevention of Blindness, Geneva.



Source: WHO Programme for the Prevention of Blindness, Geneva. Available data on Blindness, (update 1987)

Australia

Subtitles are no luxury

Television Channel 9, at Adelaide, South Australia, has made a very positive start in declaring that it would present as many movies and mini-series as possible with subtitles, especially during Deaf Awareness Week. A Supertext Club has been established, which aims at giving deaf persons more access to subtitled programmes and videotapes.

Ten-year strategic plan

The Office of Disability, within the Department of Community Services and Health, will develop a ten-year strategic plan for its disability services programme to prepare for needs up to the year 2000. The plan will also ensure that all services and their delivery are of the highest standard. For further information: Department of Community Services, G.P.O. Box 4848, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia.

(Source: WFD News, World Federation of the Deaf, April 1990.)

Bahrain

A national committee can make a difference

In May 1984, Bahrain established the National Committee for the Handicapped (NCH), which is being sponsored by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Committee members include officials from that Ministry and the ministries of health, education, interior, information and foreign affairs.

Bahrain's disability programme is an active one, with the participation of non-governmental organizations such as the Society of Friends of the Blind, the Mother and Child Welfare Branch and the Bahrain Centre for International Mobility. The main functions of the NCH are formulating policies on the rehabilitation of disabled persons and proposing legislation and preparing projects to implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons. In 1989, the NCH organized a Disabled Persons' Week, which is an annual event, and developed various awareness creation programmes to prevent disabilities. Currently, there are sub-committees on service co-ordination, research, information, financial matters and sport.

(Source: Bahrain National Committee for the Handicapped, Social Affairs Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, P.O. Box 753, Manama, Bahrain.)

Burundi

Organization of disabled persons requests help

The Union des Personnes Handicapées in Burundi would like to receive information from other organizations on the following issues:

- Structure, organization and standards of a rehabilitation centre;
- Successful experiences in the field of social rehabilitation;
- Legislation adopted by different Governments on behalf of disabled persons;
- Planning methods;
- Establishing organizations of disabled persons;
- Strategies adopted by different Governments for the implementation of the World Plan of Action concerning Disabled Persons;
- Different approaches to the problem of disabled beggars;
- The role of non-governmental organizations in promoting the education of disabled persons;
- Measures taken by different countries to guarantee employment to disabled persons and to sensitize the public to the equalization of opportunities.

Contact person: Seberege Pierre Claver, Président, Union des Personnes Handicapées, B.P. 536, Bujumbura, Burundi.

Ethiopia

Sign language seminar

The Ethiopian National Association of the Deaf is organizing the Second East African Sign Language Seminar. The Seminar is scheduled to be held at Debre Zeit from 20 to 28 August 1990 and will be financed by the Finnish Association of the Deaf. Any other country interested in a similar exercise can get further information from the World Federation of the Deaf, Ilkantie 4, P.O. Box 65, SF-0040 Helsinki, Finland.

Finland

Act on services and assistance to disabled persons

In 1987, the Government of Helsinki published an act to improve the ability of disabled persons to live and function as equal members of society and to prevent and eliminate the disadvantages and obstacles caused by disability. The act maps out the responsibilities of municipalities, such as the development of housing, the improvement of living conditions and the provision of services and financial assistance. This important piece of legislation aims to improve the potential of disabled persons to act independently and to influence planning and implementation of the services provided by society.

(Source: National Board of Social Welfare, Siltasaarenkatu 18C, SF-00530 Helsinki, Finland.)

The sub-committee on sports in Bahrain enables disabled persons to discover their abilities through sport training. (Photo by International Federation Sport of Disabled)

Greece

Helios, a four-year community programme

Helios, a four-year community programme (1988-1991) sponsored by the European Economic Community (EEC), is being implemented by the Government of Greece to address the needs of disabled persons. The programme is being co-ordinated by the ministries of health, welfare, education, public works and communication.

Helios is operating under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Welfare, who also monitors, co-ordinates and supervises the programme. It has undertaken six pilot activities, including the promotion of professional training and rehabilitation, educational programmes integrated in the regular school system and projects for independent living. Helios also has a sub-programme called Handynet, an EEC-supported data system, which aims at promoting the collection and processing of community data needed to assist disabled persons. For example, because it knew that approximately 270,000 persons needed special transport arrangements, the State Urban Transportation Agency issued passes that allowed a 50 per cent reduction on the normal rate on inter-regional buses and trains and on Olympic Airways.

(Source: Ministry of Health and Assistance to Disabled Persons, Greece.)

India

Expedition by disabled psychologist

On 9 December 1989, R. Agarwall, a physically disabled psychologist of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, turned the country's International Day for the Physically Disabled into a memorable event. He drove the 1,700 kilometres from New Delhi to Bombay in the motor tricycle he had designed himself, in a record time of seven days. Dr. Agar wall said his motives for the marathon drive were to show disabled people how they could live and achieve in spite of their disabilities and to show other people the capabilities of the disabled. He hoped to encourage the Indian auto industry to design vehicles that would meet the needs of disabled persons. He also wanted to set a national and international record for that sort of endeavour. A report of his expedition was sent to the *Guinness Book of World Records* for inclusion.

(Source: Department of Rehabilitation and Artificial Limbs, AIIMS, New Delhi, 110029, India.)

Cash and income

Economic independence is undoubtedly the most important factor in the lives of disabled persons, as it is for able-bodied persons. In many countries, economic independence for disabled persons is achieved not necessarily by employment but by various social security and disability benefits. In India, however, social security resources are not likely to be sufficient for this purpose for the foreseeable future, so that energies should concentrate on improving and expanding employment opportunities, including those for disabled persons.

Over the past 40 years, some progress was made in the employment and placement of disabled persons. However, while significant as a first step, the placement of a few thousand disabled persons in industry, administration and other professions is negligible when many other thousands of disabled persons need jobs. Thanks to the efforts of government agencies and non-governmental organizations and the interest created by IYDP and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, many more job opportunities are opening up for disabled persons in both the public and private sectors. In addition, efforts to open new avenues of employment in the form of self-employment are also being undertaken. This is an area that is unlimited in scope for disabled persons living in both rural and urban communities. Many agencies and banks and some state governments are currently providing seed money and loans for setting up small businesses and purchasing equipment; this would enable disabled persons to manufacture small and easily saleable

items. Also, some disabled persons have taken up selling a variety of items door-to-door.

(Source: Blind Welfare Programme, Indian National Association for the Blind.)

Jamaica

Something for parents to remember

The Plan of Action prepared by participants in the February 1988 workshop "Parenting Disabled Children", hosted by the Jamaica Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, included the following points:

- Form parent groups where none exist;
- Invite professionals and successful disabled people to provide input for these groups;
- Visit schools and institutions where disabled children and adults are achieving their goals. Use these visits to encourage other groups;
- Mount displays at health centres etc. to inform parents about disabilities;
- Introduce peer-group counselling, after training parents in counselling methods;
- Allow the disabled child to take part in the family's domestic activities and to become more assertive;
- Communicate more with the disabled member of the family, so that he/she may not feel left out;
- Start giving the disabled child more freedom of choice;
- Pressure Governments to employ more disabled people;
- Pressure Governments to establish resource classrooms for disabled children in regular schools;
- Identify income-generating projects to help individual families or groups;
- Identify and utilize available community resources to improve programmes and services for the disabled.

(Source: Conquest, Disabled People's International North American and Caribbean Region, vol. 2, January-April 1990.)

Japan

Employment pattern of visually impaired people

The proportion of visually impaired people in Japan who are employed is 26.5 per cent, which is remarkably low compared with the proportion of sighted people 18-64 years old, which is 69.9 per cent. The employment situation of visually impaired people in Japan has been enhanced by their acceptance as masseurs and acupuncturists. Of the 89,000 visually impaired people who are employed, 36,000 are engaged in these traditional occupations (table 1). For a long time, visually impaired people monopolized these occupations, but many sighted people have now entered these fields and their number already exceeds that of blind persons. At the same time, more blind people are choosing other careers.

	Number of people	Distribution (percentage)
Massage and acupuncture	36 800	41.3
Agriculture, fisheries	11 500	12.9
Manufacture	9 300	10.4
Sales and services	9 300	10.4
Professional and technical	4 500	5.0
Administration and business	3 100	3.5
Clerical work	1 800	2.0
Mining and quarrying	400	0.5
Communication	400	0.5
Other	11 000	13.4
Total	89 000	100

Mali

AMPSOM for deaf persons

L'Association Malienne pour la Promotion Sociale des Sourds et Sourds-Muets (AMPSOM), established on 10 July 1989, will work for the realization of the right to education, training and employment for deaf persons in Mali. At a later date, an institute for deaf youngsters will be established. A programme to sensitize parents is currently being prepared. Contact person: M. Abdoulaye Wague, Secretary-General, Association Malienne pour la Promotion Sociale des Sourds et Sourds-Muets, B.P. 174, Bamako, Mali.

Mauritania

Second African seminar for disabled women

From 7 to 13 April 1990, Mauritania hosted a training seminar for disabled women from West Africa, helping them to play a more active role in women's organizations and in society. The main background paper used in the discussions and presentations was the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons. Community-based rehabilitation programmes, human resources development and approaches to the development of programmes that create employment were the most important topics at the seminar. The organizers also aimed at setting up disabled women's committees in other French-speaking African countries.

The seminar was organized by the Bureau of the African Region of Disabled Persons International, based at Nouakchott.

Somalia

Improving statistics

At the request of the Government of Somalia, UNOV/CSDHA and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) are sponsoring a two-week consultancy to review and assess the Somalia programme on disability statistics. Lawrence Haber (United States of America) will undertake this assignment in May 1990 and will closely work with the producers and users of disability statistics at the national planning agency to determine needs and priorities for information.

Sri Lanka

Should epilepsy be a social handicap?

The Epilepsy Association of Sri Lanka (EASL), established early this year, is involved in educating the public about epilepsy. There are an estimated 100,000 persons with epilepsy in Sri Lanka. Perhaps one of the biggest problems faced by people with epilepsy is other people's attitudes towards them: ignorance of epilepsy is common, and so are the myths. For further information, contact the Executive Secretary, EASL, 10 Austin Place, Colombo 8, Sri Lanka.

(Source: *EASL Quarterly Newsletter*, September 1989.)

Thailand

Sign language dictionary

A massive task embarked on by the late Manfa Suwanarat has now been completed. The *Thai Sign Language Dictionary*, which is the result of work done with determination, is now in print, thanks to contributions that the National Association of the Deaf (Thailand) received from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and others. Following years of research in the indigenous sign language, the National Association of the Deaf, together with Ms. Manfa, the project's leading light, compiled 1,500 Thai signs with explanations in Thai and English. This trilingual dictionary is one of the finest achievements of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and can be taken as a model of work for other countries. Ms. Manfa was honoured by a testimonial award from the United Nations Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, presented posthumously by the Director of the Social Development Division of UNOV/CSDHA at a ceremony at Bangkok in November 1989.

Tunisia

Shaping the public image of disabled persons

The International Seminar on Improving Information on People with Disabilities, organized by the Association of Parents and Friends of the Handicapped in Tunisia, was held at Tunis from 30 October to 1 November 1989. Participants from 20 developed countries discussed activities in the field of information on disabled persons during the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and recommended a 22-point strategy for action to improve such information. UNOV/CSDHA was represented at the Seminar by an officer of the Disabled Persons Unit. For further information about the results of the Seminar, contact Hicham Mansour, President, Association of Parents and Friends of the Handicapped in Tunisia, B.P. 35, Tunis, 1015 RP Tunisia.

United Kingdom

Travelling by British Rail

As part of its policy to ensure that disabled people can travel by train with ease and safety, British Rail has revised and updated its *Station Design Guide for Disabled Customers*.

The *Design Guide*, intended to ensure that the needs of disabled people are fully considered when stations are designed or refurbished, has been made available to architects, engineers, production managers and all those closely involved in the improvement of railway stations. It provides detailed guidance in designing facilities such as information systems, toilets, lifts, ramps, stairs, handrails, telephones etc. to make them easily accessible to wheelchair-users, as well as people with impaired mobility or impaired sight or hearing. For further information: British Railway Press Office, Euston House, 24 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1D2, England.

(Source: *RADAR Bulletin*, February 1990.)

Debate on disability issues

In January 1990, the House of Commons debated the problems and needs of disabled persons. It was pointed out that surveys had shown that only 31 per cent of disabled persons of working age were employed and that action was needed to enforce a minimum income for disabled persons, to enforce a quota scheme, to outlaw discrimination against disabled persons and to improve job opportunities and training. It was further pointed out that the average real value of benefits for disabled persons had risen by less than 1 per cent in the past decade, while average male earnings had risen by 36.5 per cent. The debate stressed that it was vital that moves towards independent living should be accompanied by adequate incomes for disabled people.

(Source: *RADAR Bulletin*, February 1990.)

ILSMH develops training modules

The International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicap (ILSMH), in co-operation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), recently completed a series of training workshops for 12 English-speaking African countries. During the workshops, 19 training modules for the training of adults with mental handicaps were prepared; these modules will be used for community-based rehabilitation (CBR) programmes, employers, professionals and family members. The African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI) assisted ILSMH in pretesting these modules, and training materials will be revised taking into account the findings of field tests. ILSMH intends to publish and disseminate these modules to various organizations and training institutes. For further information: ILSMH, B.P. 17, 248 Avenue Louise, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium.

International fellowship programme of Rehabilitation International/Kessler Institute

As a service to professionals working in rehabilitation, Rehabilitation International and the Kessler Fellowship Fund are providing educational opportunities for non-residents of the United States to learn about physical rehabilitation services, education and research as practiced in that country. The programme is open to medical doctors, therapists, administrators and other qualified professionals working with people having physical disabilities. Those selected should be available for periods of one to six months. Applicants must have a knowledge of English. For information, please write to Rehabilitation International, Attention: Kessler International Fellowship Programme, 25 East 21st Street, New York, NY 10010, United States, or fax (212) 505-087, indicating the type of course desired, the dates preferred, organization and professional contacts, and assurance that travel expenses will be covered by the applicant or sponsors.

World Federation for Mental Health revises its Declaration of Human Rights and Mental Health

The new Declaration of Human Rights and Mental Health was approved by the Board of Directors of the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) at the 1989 World Congress for Mental Health, held in New Zealand. The Declaration will assist the international community in applying universally recognized principles and guarantees for promoting mental health, as well as in protecting persons with mental illnesses or those who are mentally distressed.

This document, the result of a long period of development and hard work, will require follow-up action by WFHM and other non-governmental organizations, as well as by Member States of the United Nations, on their efforts to monitor international human rights. The present revision recognizes WFMH concern not only with people who are mentally ill but also with those who are vulnerable to or at risk of mental illness. Copies of the Declaration can be obtained from the Secretary-General, WFMH, P.O.B. 6815, Baltimore, MD 21285-6815, United States.

(Source: *WFMH Newsletter*, February 1990.)

World Federation of the Deaf Completes Survey on Deaf People in Developing Countries

A world-wide survey on the human rights situation, educational and employment opportunities, and organizational activities of deaf people in developing countries was lauched in 1988 by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD).

The survey has been completed. A computerised data base on the results of the survey is currently being developed. It will include detailed information on the situation of deaf people in 67 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The survey was undertaken because of the need for comprehensive and up-to-date information and data on various aspects of the living conditions of deaf persons. Such information will enable WFD and its members to respond adequately to the needs of deaf persons in various developing countries. Until 1988, data collection on the situation of deaf persons was not carried out in a systematic way.

The wealth of information collected will be useful to policy-makers, programme developers and professionals. WFD is currently preparing a final report on the results of the study. Copies of the report will be made available to Government agencies, United Nations Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and professionals who will be interested in using the information collected. On the basis of the results of the study, WFD hopes to establish an integrated development programme advocating the need for access to employment and education of deaf people. Also it hopes to develop indigenous sign languages.

For further information contact World Federation of the Deaf, General Secretariat, Ilkantie 4, P.O. Box 65, SF-00401 Helsinki, Finland.

Using sign language provides access to education: a basic human right of all.
(Photo by L. de Toledo)

ESCWA

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Conference on the Capabilities and Needs of Disabled Persons in the ESCWA Region was held at Amman from 20 to 28 November 1989. The Conference, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and opened by Queen Noor Al-Hussein, was attended by some 200 Arab and international experts, a quarter of whom were themselves disabled persons. It had a 15-point agenda and featured an exhibition of technologically advanced devices for people with disabilities. Participants from UNOV/CSDHA included the Deputy Director of the Social Groups Activities Branch and a representative of the Disabled Persons Unit.

For further information about the Conference, contact the Chief, Social Development and Humanitarian Resources Division, ESCWA, P.O. Box 27, Baghdad, Iraq.

UNDP

United Nations Development Programme

IMPACT foundations in Asia

A recent mission to Asia, led by Sir John Wilson, senior consultant of the UNDP-managed International Initiative Against Avoidable Disablement (IMPACT), led to the establishment of an IMPACT foundation at Singapore. This decision followed meetings with the President of Singapore and officials of the Ministry of Health and voluntary organizations. At the same time, the Director of IMPACT, Alexander Rotival, held consultations with Philippine officials on establishing an IMPACT foundation there.

(Source: UNDP/Impact, Asian Tour, January-March 1990.)

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

International Task Force on Child Survival

From 1 to 3 March 1990, the International Task Force on Child Survival was convened at Bangkok. Participating in this high-level meeting were representatives of countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the heads of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank and the Rockefeller Foundation. The meeting, which was sponsored by the five organizations, reviewed progress made in immunization and proposed health targets for the 1990s. It also prepared the agenda for a summit meeting on the protection of the world's children, to be held in September 1990 in New York. UNICEF will sponsor this meeting.

Towards a better future?
(Photo by CSDHA)

Convention on the Rights of the Child: new guidelines

After at least 10 years of extensive work, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, initiated by Poland and sponsored by UNICEF and collaborating non-governmental organizations, was adopted on 20 November 1989 by the General Assembly (resolution 44/25). This Convention is a far-reaching and comprehensive instrument that enumerates the rights of children, transcending cultural, political and economic barriers. The protection of children with disabilities and their rights are two of the many issues addressed by the 54 articles of the Convention.

Governments planning to ratify the Convention may wish to take an especially close look at article 23, pertaining to the rights of children with disabilities. The work done at the international level should now be continued at the national level, including ratification of the Convention, promotion of its standards in national legislation and working for its implementation. So far, some 60 countries have signed the Convention. For further information, contact UNICEF, 866 United Nations Plaza, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, United States.

ILO

International Labour Organisation

ILO, in co-operation with Rehabilitation International, has conducted a study on new technologies and the employment of people with disabilities. Researchers from six countries in Europe, Japan and North America examined training for employment programmes, using new technologies. For more information, contact International Labour Office, F/Rehabilitation, 4 route des Morillons, Geneva, Switzerland.

ACCESS IS HALF THE BATTLE

Access to the physical environment as well as to information is a critical tool for full participation and equalization of opportunities. UNOV/CSDHA continues to respond to the growing need for creating a barrier-free environ ment for disabled persons within United Nations facilities. Measures are being undertaken to improve the accessibility of the Vienna International Centre. With the co-operation of Buildings Management, the facilities were reviewed by UNOV/CSDHA, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Promotion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, with regard to perceived barriers. As a result of this review, recommendations were made for modifications that would improve accessibility for persons who are hard of hearing, mobility impaired persons and persons with impaired vision. It is anticipated that this initiative will be emulated by other United Nations organizations. The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna appealed in this regard to heads of United Nations agencies to include the accessibility requirements of disabled persons in their budgets for conferences. Access to information is of utmost importance to visually impaired and hearing-impaired persons. Until recently, information was seldom available in Braille or in audio-recorded form at United Nations meetings. This deficiency limited the participation of persons with impaired vision at gatherings where matters of importance to them were being discussed. With its acquisition of a Braille printer, UNOV/CSDHA is now producing some documents and information materials in Braille.

Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

Since it began operating in 1980, the Voluntary Fund, which is administered by UNOV/CSDHA, has provided over $US 2 million in seed-money grants to over 110 innovative and catalytic projects that are of direct benefit to disabled persons. The support concentrates on training but also includes technical exchange, data collection and research, technical co-operation on disability policies and programmes, organizations of or for disabled persons, and promotional activities (table 2).

From January 1988 to June 1989, 25 of the more than 70 requests for assistance were approved. Nearly two thirds of the projects were located in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. From June to December 1989, the Fund approved 24 more projects that had been submitted by non-governmental organizations and government agencies.

Seminar on technical aids for French-speaking Africa

A seminar on technical aids for disabled persons was organized by UNOV/CSDHA in collaboration with the Ljubljana Service for Technical Co-operation in the Disability Field and the German Technical Co-operation Agency (GTZ). The seminar, held at Conakry from 20 to 28 November 1988, was financed by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and the OPEC Fund for International Development. Participants were mainly orthopaedists and prosthetists from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and Zaire.

The following experts served as resource persons: Dr. Crt Marincek of

Activity	Number of projects		Value of projects ($US)	
	January 1980-December 1987	January 1988-June 1989	January 1980-December 1987	January 1988-June 1989
Promotional activities	10	1	169 709	5 000
Organizations of or for disabled persons	16	2	398 692	7 500
Data collection; applied research	14	5	222 332	71 800
Training	27	10	926 148	36 873
Technical exchange	16	6	137 306	73 478
Technical co-operation on disability policies and programmes	2	1	20 100	59 000
Total	85	25	1 874 287	353 651

the Ljubljana University Institute of Rehabilitation, Sepp Heim of GTZ and Yvan Rolleghem of the International Association of Orthopaedists. The opening and closing ceremonies were attended by the Guinean ministers of social affairs, employment, public health and transport and by the Resident Representative of UNDP. The seminar facilitated a fruitful dialogue and exchange of information and experience among professionals. Participants asked the United Nations to lay the basis for establishing a pan-African association of technicians that would facilitate an exchange of information on all aspects of orthopaedics technology. The need for intra-African cooperation and for the local adaptation of techniques in physiotherapy, surgery and orthopaedics was underlined.

The seminar noted the importance of home treatment and the active role of parents in the rehabilitation of disabled family members. Three main obstacles to the development of orthopaedics technology in Africa were emphasized: insufficient equipment, a lack of qualified personnel (Zaire, which has 3,400,000 disabled persons, has only eight orthopaedists) and a lack of financial resources.

The financial impact of such seminars has been demonstrated. Benefits include reductions in the number of patients sent abroad for treatment, in the number of imported tricycles and wheelchairs and in the costs of technical aids. Copies of the seminar report can be obtained from UNOV/CSDHA, Disabled Persons Unit (DPU).

Manual on national disability legislation

UNOV/CDSHA is preparing a manual on national disability legislation in developing countries. That such a manual was needed became clear when various studies showed that relatively few legislative measures on disability had been taken by these countries.

The manual is meant to be used as a guideline and background document by Governments, organizations and professionals dealing with disability legislation.

It will address itself to procedures for establishing national legal instruments; technical aspects of the different types of regulations, for example, by laws and decrees; jurisdiction – national, regional or local – of regulations; and separate vs. integrated approaches to legislation. The manual will also discuss priority areas for legislation, and a few model statutes will be presented.

By the end of 1990, the manual will have been presented in a draft form to Member States, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. The manual is expected to be finalized in 1991.

Directory of experts

A directory is being compiled by UNOV/CSDHA that will list experts from all continents working in the disability field. The information will be provided to organizations and experts working in the various fields of disability in both the private and public sectors. Countries are especially encouraged to provide the names and curricula vitae of experts who themselves have disabilities. There has been an increasing demand for this type of information in data-base form by Member States and non-governmental organizations. The directory is a response to this need, and many countries have expressed an interest in exchanging information. The directory of experts is expected to be completed by the end of 1990.

Workshop under Mount Kilimanjaro

In July 1988, a workshop on technical aids was held at the Tanzanian Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists, which is housed in the compound of the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC), at Moshi. Participants came from Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Seychelles, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

The workshop was organized by UNOV/CSDHA in collaboration with the Ljubljana Service for Technical Cooperation Support for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, the German School for Technical Orthopaedics and the International Society for Orthotics and Prosthetics. It was financed by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, the OPEC Fund for International Development and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

In the course of the workshop it became clear that some African countries were not aware of the existence of training centres and other institutions on their continent; it also became clear that a proper system for sharing information needs to be developed. While many technical aids can be made using locally available materials, sometimes critical parts must be imported. In the case of knee joints, for example, the raw materials and components were a problem. It was learned, however, that joints for braces are now being made in several African countries from materials and components that are abundant in the region. It was recommended that local production should be encouraged and that the Florence Agreement and its Protocol* and preferential trade agreements between African countries should be adhered to. The development of a joint research capability to produce appropriate orthopaedic devices and prostheses was also considered.

The recommendations on local production are important especially in view of the difficult economic situation faced by many of the countries. Those African countries that have acquired technical competence in the production of orthopaedic appliances should disseminate this experience to other member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Thus, it was proposed that a directory of raw materials and components for making

* Agreement concerning the importation of educational, scientific and cultural materials adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at, respectively, Florence in 1950 and Nairobi in 1976.

orthopaedic appliances on the continent should be compiled. Participants further requested the OAU, through its African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI), to encourage close co-operation among African countries in the use of local materials and resources. Copies of the workshop report can be obtained from UNOV/CSDHA, Disabled Persons Unit.

Seminar on disabled women

In response to several requests to examine what should be done to address the needs of disabled women, three groups – the Standing Committee on Affairs of Women with Disabilities of Disabled Peoples' International, the Division for the Advancement of Women and DPU of UNOV/CSDHA – are organizing a training seminar that will present an overview of the problems faced by disabled women, identify the specific needs of disabled women and suggest means of addressing these needs and integrating them into development plans.

The seminar is scheduled for 20-24 August 1990 and will take place at Vienna.

Its main objective will be to train participating women leaders to put information collected at the meeting to practical use in their own countries.

The seminar results will also be reported to the Commission on the Status of Women in February 1991. The Commission will have as a priority theme "Vulnerable women".

The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons will co-sponsor the seminar.

ON-STREAM pilot programme

Because it has repeatedly been requested to facilitate assistance to national disability committees and to help non-governmental organizations to co-ordinate their activities, UNOV/CSDHA has developed the ON-STREAM pilot programme. This stands for: *O*rganizations of Disabled Persons and *N*ational Committees' *S*trenghtening, *T*hrough *R*eview, *E*xchange of Information *A*ssistance and *M*obilization. The programme, the first phase of which will last from 1990 to 1992, will basically serve as an umbrella for various activities.

It is envisaged that ON-STREAM will facilitate and encourage co-operation and communication between non-governmental organizations and national disability committees. Assistance will be provided in the following areas:

- Review of national activities, programmes, plans and policies and development of national disability programmes, should this be required;
- Exchange of information on disability issues;
- Strengthening of organizations' capabilities and streamlining of activities through training;
- Mobilization of human and financial resources in communities and at national levels.

Twenty-fifth anniversary of SNAPEI

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Syndicat National des Associations de Parents d'Enfants Inadaptés (SNAPEI) was marked at the organization's General Assembly in Paris on 9 December 1989. Among the guests were representatives of the Disabled Persons Unit. The forum was attended by the presidents of local affiliates from all over France, who discussed promoting action for people with mental disabilities. For further information, contact SNAPEI, B.P. 8378, 95805 Cergy Pontoise Cedex, France.

Support from development planners for the World Programme of Action

Instead of setting up separate services for persons with functional limitations, the various needs of all people should be taken into account during the preparatory stages of national development plans. Such forethought is needed to avoid later sectoral and segregated solutions.

UNOV/CSDHA is therefore launching a project that will attempt to design structures and activities

Disabled women can work as well as others. However, they do have specific needs which need to be addressed. *(Photo by ILO)*

whereby persons with functional limitations can win equal opportunities and full integration into social, economic, cultural and political life. The guiding principle in this exercise is the understanding that well-being cannot be produced for people; rather, their potentials must be realized through meaningful activities. To promote an environment fostering self-reliance, all persons in society should be able to take part and be involved in planning their own living conditions.

In 1992, the project will publish a manual on integrating the needs, rights and concerns of disabled persons into national development plans, including economic, social and health plans. The project can be seen as an effort to build the social dimension into development co-operation and national planning to ensure well-being for all.

To achieve meaningful results, the project invites individuals or organizations interested in this issue, including planning officers, to contact UNOV/CSDHA. The project is being funded by the Government of Finland.

Narrowing the information gap

UNOV/CSDHA has proposed the development of a clearing-house for data bases that contain disability-related information and that have been prepared in both the United Nations system and private organizations. The clearing-house will refer users to the most appropriate source(s), where specific questions can be answered. It will also make available information on the disability-related organizations, projects and documents available in the UNOV/CSDHA reference collection. In addition, an international network will be set up to exchange disability-related information within the United Nations system itself. The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons is expected to provide $US 30,000 for this purpose; an additional $US 254,400 will be needed to fully implement the project.

Assistance to Côte d'Ivoire

In March 1990, UNOV/CSDHA participated in a two-week advisory mission to Côte d'Ivoire as part of a multi-disciplinary team that was assisting the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in its efforts to revive the national disability programme. As a result of the mission, the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Social Affairs is setting up a national disability committee to co-ordinate its activities. Côte d'Ivoire, which has the relatively high disability rate of approximately 10 per cent and a high incidence of both poliomyelitis and blindness, has already undertaken various programmes but now wishes to streamline them and emphasize community involvement.

During the mission, representatives of DPU participated in a two-day national workshop, held at Abidjan, to promote a national programme. Several field visits were made to rural and urban communities, and extensive

At the forefront of promoting a national disability programme, government officers and members of disabled persons organizations participating a two-day workshop held at Abidjan on 12 and 13 March 1990. *(Photo by CSDHA)*

consultations were held with government officials and associations of disabled persons. Assistance was provided to the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Social Affairs in the preparation of a training course for associations of disabled persons and to agencies dealing with disability legislation in the area of employment and education.

The mission was undertaken together with Dr. E. Helander, UNDP Programme Co-ordinator of the Interregional Programme for People with Disabilities, and M. Legris, the consultant on community-based rehabilitation (CBR).

Expanding locally produced artificial limbs and appliances in developing countries: steps in the right direction. *(Photo by L. de Toledo)*

Activities of the Special Representative

In late January 1990, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Promotion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons undertook missions to El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico. He met with organizations of disabled persons, representatives of UNDP and government officials. He also visited projects implemented by persons with disabilities. The purpose of the mission was to promote awareness of disabled communities and assess their needs in order to mobilize financial support for projects.

The Office of the Special Representative secured funding for a joint effort with the Department of Public Information to produce a colourful, informative brochure on United Nations efforts that benefit persons with disabilities. Another joint effort, this one with the DPU, is to be presented in June 1990 at the Vienna International Centre. The display will include an exhibition of photos prepared by the American Federation of the Blind around the theme "More alike than different", as well as a demonstration of computers and other technical devices that assist disabled persons to participate fully in activities such as education and employment.

The Office of the Special Representative has engaged a consultant who, with the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, Geneva, is studying the feasibility of expanding trade in wheelchairs, artificial limbs, prosthetic and orthopaedic appliances and assistive devices for blind and hearing-impaired persons and of exchanging knowledge, among developing countries, about the local production of such equipment. The consultant has visited Kenya, Pakistan, Turkey and Zimbabwe.

More technical devices are needed to assist blind children to participate fully in education. *(Photo by CSDHA)*

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

M. Berkowitz, *Forging Linkages: Modifying Disability Programmes to Encourage Employment* (New York, Rehabilitation International). A report examining innovative social security schemes for disabled persons re-entering employment. Innovative methods of rehabilitation are examined in France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden and Israel.

Usha Bhalero, *Eminent Blind Women of the World: Their Contributions and Achievements* (New Delhi, Sterling, 1989).

T. Dutta, *Micro-Computer in Special Education* (New Delhi, Association of Education & Technology and Gurgaon, Haryana, Academic Press).

ESCAP, *Community-Based Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation: Guidelines for Planning and Management* (Bangkok, 1989).

———, *Equalization of Opportunities and Community-Based Rehabilitation* (Bangkok, 1989). Reports of a workshop and a study attachment in the field of disability.

———, *Handbook on Community Awareness Programmes concerning Disability* (Bangkok, 1989).

E. Helander *et al., Manual on Training in the Community for People with Disabilities* (Geneva, World Health Organization, 1989).

IMPACT Foundation, *Impact-Report.* An information package available at Westview House, Westview, Lindfield, West Sussex, RH-16 2LJ, United Kingdom.

1990 Directory of Independent Living Programmes. Lists 397 independent living centres and other programmes providing independent living services and is available from Independent Living, 3400 Bissonnet, Suite 101, Houston, TX 77005, United States.

R. T. Smith and B. Altman, *Rehabilitation Service Utilization Models: Changes in the Opportunity Structure for Disabled Women* (Baltimore, University of Maryland).

———, *The Social Epidemiology of Disability: Constraints in Rehabilitation and Policy Implications* (Baltimore, University of Maryland).

UNESCO, *Children with Severe Cerebral Palsy,* Guide No. 7 (Paris, 1989). A guide for practitioners involved in training and those directly working with disabled children.

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

Breaking Barriers. A film produced by the Department of Public Information to help promote the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (on 16 millimetre film and cassettes; duration, 30 minutes; in English, French and Spanish). For further information, contact DPU, Vienna.

Community Action for Disabled People. A video training film produced by the Vocational Rehabilitation Branch of ILO.

Programme Guidelines on Childhood Disability. An audio-visual kit developed by Rehabilitation International and UNICEF, 1989.

COMPUTER PROGRAMS

The European Support Center for Persons with Disabilities (ESCPD) reports that two new programs are available.

Zoomtext

Zoomtext is a RAM-resident program that enlarges screen characters as much as eight times normal size. The program operates on an IBM personal computer, XT and AT with an enhanced graphics adaptor, as well as on PS/2 models 50, 60, 70 and 80 and works with most character-based software. It includes four fonts that permit the user to vary character thickness, shape and spacing. Other character attributes are reverse video, high intensity, blinking and underlining. It is compatible with XT, AT, PS/2 M.50 and up.

For inquiries:

Infoset, 29-31 rue Lauriston, 75116 Paris, France

or

Sight and Sound, Quantel House, Anglia Way, Moulten Park, Northampton NN3 1WT, United Kingdom.

Spy Graf

Spy Graf enlarges text and graphics up to 64 times and represents a new way for visually impaired persons to view the screen of the IBM personal computer AT and all compatibles with 128K and RGB monitor. The programme is able to enlarge graphics and text without the use of additional hardware, using the RGB monitor. Spy Graf is a memory-resident programme that will run with all IBM-compatible software. It not only enlarges images on the screen, but it also allows one to change 16 colours. It runs with all applications in the MS-DOS and IBM universe. If used with a monochrome monitor, it requires graphics board for a monochrome screen. For inquiries: LS & S Group Inc., Northbrook, IL 60065, United States.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	*Title/activity*	*Venue*	*Organization or contact*
1–4 May 1990	World Council Meeting	Helsinki	Disabled Peoples International
7–11 May 1990	Expert Meeting on Alternative Ways to Mark the End of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons	Helsinki	UNOV/CSDHA
12–15 May 1990	Independent Living Conference 1990	Bethesda, Maryland	Research & Training Centre 3111 Haworth-BCR University of Kansas Lawrence, KS 66045 United States
17–19 May 1990	Cerebral Palsy: European Symposium on the theme "Early Intervention with the Young Handicapped Child and the Family"	Butgenbach, Belgium	CEFES 50, ave. Fr. Roosevelt, C.P. 122 B-1050 Brussels, Belgium
20–25 May 1990	5th European Regional Conference of Rehabilitation International	Dublin	Rehabilitation International
June 1990	General Assembly of the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations	Federal Republic of Germany	ILEP Blythe Rd. 234 London W14 OHJ, England
4–7 June 1990	World Congress on Sport for All	Tampere, Finland	Finnish Society for Research in Sport and Physical Education Stadion, SF-00250 Helsinki, Finland
4–8 June 1990	Nordic Congress on Orthopedics	Helsinki	Nordisk Ortopedisk Forening Tolo sjukhus Topeliusgatan 5 SF-00260 Helsinki, Finland
17–22 June 1990	VI World Conference of the International Rehabilitation Medical Association	Madrid	IRMA c/o Baylor College of Medicine 1333 Moursund Ave. Houston, TX 77030 United States
18–22 June 1990	Australian Physiotherapy Association: 3rd International Congress of the Asian and Pacific Basin	Hong Kong	Australian Physiotherapy Association, 100 Webb St. Fitzroy VIC 3065, Australia
24–29 June 1990	25th International Conference on the theme "The Human Dimension of Local Development: Accepting the Challenge"	Marrakech	International Council on Social Welfare Koestlergasse 1/29 A-1060 Vienna, Austria
29 June– 2 July 1990	5th International Self Help for Hard of Hearing People	Little Rock, Arkansas	Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc. 7800 Wisconsin Ave. Bethesda, MD 20814 United States
20–27 July 1990	European Special Olympics 1990	Glasgow	European Special Olympic Games 95 Morrison St. Glasgow G5 8LP Scotland
24–28 July 1990	Alexander Graham Bell Assosication for the Deaf: International Centennial Celebration Convention	Washington, D.C.	Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf 3417 Volta Place, N.W. Washington, DC 20007 United States

Date	*Title/activity*	*Venue*	*Organization or contact*
29 July– 3 August 1990	1990 International Congress on Education of the Deaf	Rochester, New York	ICED National Technical Institute for the Deaf Rochester Institute of Technology 1 Lomb Memorial Dr. P.O. Box 9887 Rochester, NY 14623, United States
30 July– 3 August 1990	International Special Education Congress 1990 on the theme "Special Education Needs - Created or Met?"	Cardiff	Colin Tyre County of South Glamorgan Gabalfa House 213a North Rd. Cardiff CF4 3AG, Wales
Late summer, 1990	International Conference on Musculoskeletal Accident and Injury Prevention in the Work Environment, including Traffic Accidents	Leningrad	WHO/Occupational and Industrial Orthopaedic Center Hospital for Joint Diseases 301 E. 17th St., New York, NY 10003, United States
5–10 August 1990	10th World Congress of ILSMH	Paris	International League of Societies for Persons with Mental Handicap
6–9 September 1990	16th Annual Meeting of the International Study Group of Diabetes in Children and Adolescents	Oslo	Dept. of Pediatrics University Hospital S-581 85 Linkäping, Sweden
8–15 September 1990	18th Triannual Congress of the International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology	Montreal	Dr. R. de Marneff rue Washington 40 B-1050 Brussels, Belgium
23–26 September 1990	International Conference on "Comprehensive System of Social and Other Services for Disabled Persons"	Warsaw	Polish Society for Rehabilitation for the Disabled ul. Partyzantow 4 00-629 Warsaw, Poland
26–27 September 1990	World Summit on Children	New York	UNICEF
26–30 October 1990	9th Asia and Pacific Regional Conference	Beijing	Rehabilitation International
4–8 November 1990	International Symposium on Sexuality and Disability	Tel Aviv	Israel Rehabilitation Society 18 David Elazar St. Tel Aviv 61909, Israel
5–11 November 1990	International Meeting on National Co-ordinating Committees on Disability in Developing Countries	Beijing	UNOV/CSDHA
3 December 1990	Non-governmental Organizations Consultative Meeting	Vienna	UNOV/CSDHA and Office of the Special Representative
3–5 December 1990	2nd International Conference on Computer for Handicapped Persons	Zurich	Dr. W. L. Zangler Technical University of Vienna Gusshausstr. 27/358/18 A-1040 Vienna, Austria
4 December 1990	Meeting of the International Council on Disability	Vienna	International Council on Disability, New York
5–7 December 1990	Eighth Inter-agency Meeting on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons	Vienna	UNOV/CSDHA

Date	*Title/activity*	*Venue*	*Organization or contact*
April 1991	First International Cultural Days of and for Handicapped Persons	Hannover	J. Seep Behinderten-Kultur c/o Pavillon, Lister Meile D-3000 Hannover 1 Federal Republic of Germany
26-31 May 1991	Deaf Worlds: Together Towards 2000	Eastbourne	Royal National Institute for the Deaf 105 Gower Street London WCIE 6AH, England
10-14 June 1991	SYSTED 1991 Systems Science in Health and Social Services for the Elderly and the Disabled (Fourth International Conference)	Barcelona	Inter-Congress. Gran Via de los Corto Catalanes, 646, 08007 Barcelona, Spain
14-18 October 1991	19th International Epilepsy Congress	Rio de Janeiro	International Bureau for Epilepsy c/o Achterweg 5 2103 SW Heemstede The Netherlands
22-25 April 1992	Independence 1992: International Congress and Exposition on Disability	Vancouver	B.C. Pavillon Corp. 200-1190 Melville St. Vancouver, British Columbia Canada VGE 3 WI

EDITOR'S NOTE

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The Editor welcomes news items from national disability committees, Governments and non-governmental organizations. Short articles and viewpoints on disability issues by disabled persons are also welcome. The Editor of the *Disabled Persons Bulletin* reserves the right to edit and publish manuscripts in line with the requirements of the publication.

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